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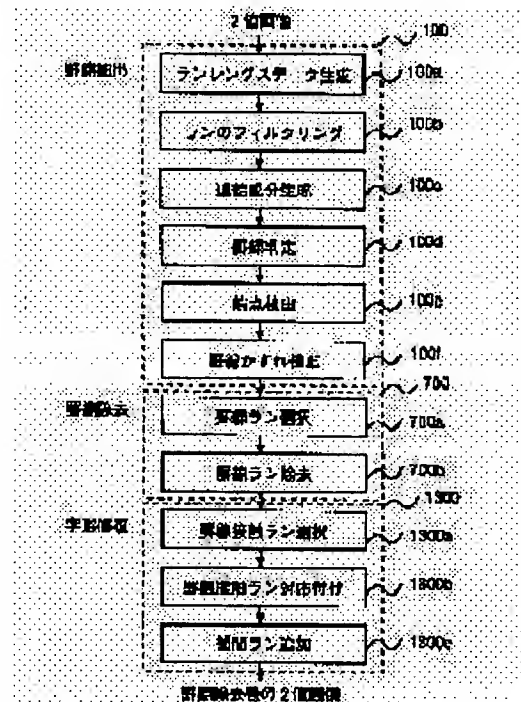
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(54) RULED LINE EXTRACTION METHOD AND RULED LINE ELIMINATION METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To quickly and highly precisely extract and eliminate a ruled line that has inclination or a thinning and, moreover, to quickly correct an eliminated crossed part after the ruled line crossed with a character is eliminated.

SOLUTION: A ruled line extraction means 100 applies filtering to run-length data on a binary picture, generates condition element data of the run-length data after filtering, distinguishes the connection element of a ruled line from that of a non-ruled line from an external feature of the connection element, detects an edge point for the ruled line from an circumscribed rectangular area of the connection element of the ruled line, decides a thinning of the ruled line from a continuity relation between the ruled lines, and extracts the rules line by connecting the ruled lines concerned when the thinning is decided to exist. Moreover, the run-length data of the ruled line are eliminated (700) from an input picture. In addition, in a character shape correction means 1300, the run-length data contacting the ruled line are extracted, the run-length data in contact are associated with each other and the character shape is corrected by adding the run-length



data for interpolating between the associated run-length data.

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